

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 29, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 11-23 are pending. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 12, 14-16 and 18-21 stand withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. Claims 11-22 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claim 11 is the sole independent claim.

The Office Action states that "Figures 1-5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated." Figures 1-5 have been so amended in the corrected formal drawings submitted herewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also objects to the drawing changes made in the Request for Approval to Make Drawing Changes filed with the subject application, stating "It is not clear what changes are being made." Submitted herewith are corrected formal drawings, which present the same changes in a clear fashion. In addition, Applicants hereby explain these changes as follows. In Fig. 8, the representation of element 1201 has been changed from a line to six circles, and the lead line of reference numeral 1202 has been amended. In Fig. 18, the stippling has been removed from the representation of element 18. These changes are made to better illustrate the ink supply ports 1201, first bonding agent 1202, and recording liquid flow

paths 18, as described in the original specification (e.g., page 21, line 26 - page 23, line 1; page 42, lines 15-21). It is also noted that all of the above drawing changes were approved by the Examiner in parent application no. 09/488,931.

Relatedly, Applicants are filing herewith a substitute specification, to improve the form of the specification and, in particular, to correct certain reference numerals so as to conform the specification to the originally filed drawings.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim 22 was objected to on a formal ground and has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13, 17, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In regard thereto, Claim 11 has been amended in view of the point raised by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the claims comply with Section 112. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 822 078 (*Hirosawa et al.*). The cancellation of those claims renders this rejection moot.

Independent Claim 11 is directed to an ink jet recording head comprising a recording element substrate provided with a discharge port group for discharging ink, an electric wiring substrate electrically connected with the recording element substrate, a supporting member for supporting the recording element substrate, a sealing area positioned on the supporting member adjacent to the recording element substrate, and a sealant retaining portion communicating with the sealing area.

Hirosawa et al. relates to an ink jet recording head including recording element boards 101a to 101c, wiring boards 104a to 104c, support member 107, support plate 108, sealing resin 105 for protecting lead wires between the recording element boards and the wiring boards, adhesive resin 109 for adhering the wiring boards to the support plate, and sealing resin 111 that fills the clearance between the recording element boards and the wiring boards or support plate. However, Applicants submit that nothing in *Hirosawa et al.* would teach or suggest at least a sealant retaining portion communicating with a sealing area, as defined in independent Claim 11.

Since *Hirosawa et al.* does not contain all of the elements of independent Claim 11, that claim is believed allowable over that reference.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 11. That claim is therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

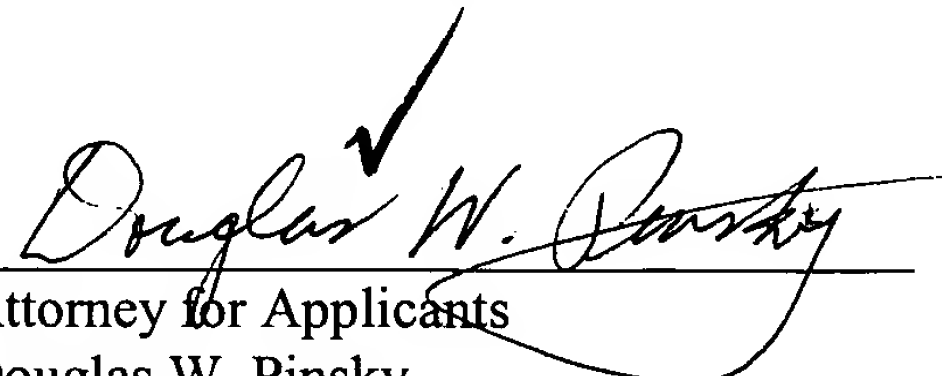
The other claims presented for examination are each dependent from Claim 11 and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each of these dependent claims is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In addition, since independent Claim 11 is believed allowable and has been acknowledged by the Examiner to be generic, Applicants respectfully request that the non-elected dependent claims be rejoined and allowed. See M.P.E.P. 809.04.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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